

**WYCOMBE'S** seven day reign at the top of the Berger Isthmian League came to an abrupt end at Southbury Road on Saturday when they were firmly beaten by reigning champions and FA Cup heroes Enfield.

A goal in each half by new face Dave Flint sent Wycombe to their first league defeat in seven matches. So they lost top spot to Slough, whose point at Hendon puts them ahead on goal difference.

Afterwards the Blues' manager Mike Keen, conceding that they had been beaten by the better side, commented that Wycombe needed to be at full strength in dry conditions to stand a chance of winning this match.

Unfortunately neither of these conditions was met. Keith Mead did not recover from his pulled muscle, so skipper Paul Birdseye returned to the side in an unaccustomed position in the centre of the defence while Jimmy Jacobs retained the right back spot.

Then during the second half George Borg, who had started the match not at 100 per cent, had to limp off the field with an aggravated knee injury. The resulting confusion caused by his departure led to another goal.

### Saturated

It might have been wise, knowing Borg's condition to have had a defender — say Phil Bycroft — as substitute instead of winger Ken Wilson.

The second factor against Wycombe was the state of the pitch. Saturated by recent rain, which continued during the match, the ground was very heavy and against the visitors' attractive short passing style of play. Enfield's strength was a vital factor in their success.

Enfield, despite making several changes to the side in preparation for their entry into the Alliance Premier League next season, controlled the match for long periods.

Nevertheless Wycombe,

with Howard Kennedy working manfully in midfield, held on in the first half. Indeed had Bobby Davies' rocket shot from 25 yards gone under rather than inches over the bar, they would have taken the lead.

### Pressure

But the home side, who previously had gone close through Tony Gibson and John Tone took the lead just three minutes before half-time.

Gary Toll, who did not enjoy the happiest of games,

gave the ball away in midfield and Enfield broke away with a two man overlap. Following neat passing by Gibson and John McCombe, Flint had time to delay his shot before firing past the diving Gary Lester.

The Blues were a little unlucky to be trailing at half-time, but in the period after the break they came under increasing pressure for one of the few times this season.

George Borg, who received his tenth booking of the season for deliberate handball just before the in-

terval, limped off the field in the 63rd minute. Ken Wilson came on as a forward and the left-footed Bob Dell went to full-back.

Within 60 seconds, as the realigned defence was still sorting itself out, Enfield clinched the match with their second goal.

Nobody cut out Steve King's dangerous cross and Gibson, given a free header, forced a fine diving save from Lester. Unfortunately the ball fell straight to the alert Flint who headed in from close range.

For a while Enfield really took control and only a fine save by Lester prevented Flint scoring a hat-trick. Before the end Wycombe recovered their poise and finished on top.

The end of the match was marred by an unnecessary piece of behaviour by home defender Dave Waite, who was booked for a blatant head butt on Steve Long.

## Borg faces ban

**WYCOMBE** manager Mike Keen had angry words with referee Mr Grady immediately after the match.

Mr Keen explained later that he was complaining about the referee's inconsistency in booking George Borg for a blatant handball offence, while not cautioning Enfield's Dave Waite for a similar offence.

Borg, for whom this was a tenth booking of the season (has any Wycombe player ever achieved more?) now faces a lengthy suspension, probably before the end of the season.

He has already had a one-week ban for his first five bookings, but with another five in the same season, the FA are unlikely to be lenient, even though a couple of them have been slightly unlucky.

With Keith Mead on the injured list, Mr Keen might soon find the opportunity to call up a couple of his reserve team defenders.

**ENFIELD:** J. Jacobs; A. Gibson, J. Tone, A. Jennings, K. Barrett, D. Waite, L. Holmes, D. Flint, J. McCombe, S. Oliver, S. King. Sub: P. Oliver (not used).

**WYCOMBE:** G. Lester; J. Jacobs, G. Borg (sub: K. Wilson 63 mins), R. Davies, P. Birdseye, R. Dell, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Glynn, G. Toll, M. Holifield.

**Referee:** C. Grady (Surrey).  
**Half-time:** 1-0. **Scorers:** Enfield — Flint 2 (42 mins, 64).